

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02 OMB-01

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4425

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PASS STR AND TREASURY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, GATT

SUBJECT: GATT PANELS ON DISC AND OTHER TAX PRACTICES

REF: STATE 040252

1. IN REPLY TO OUR REQUEST FOR POTENTIAL CANDIDATES OTHER THAN CHADHA AS GATT EXPERT ON SUBJECT PANELS, SECRETARIAT HAS SUGGESTED SERGIO PAULO ROUANET, COUNSELOR OF BRAZILIAN MISSION, GENEVA. WE ASKED IF SEC COULD GIVE US A WIDER CHOICE INCLUDING SOME NON-LDCS BUT SEC SAYS IT HAS NONE TO PROPOSE BUT OF COURSE WILLING CONSULT EC CONCERNING ACCEPTABILITY OF ANY INDIVIDUALS US MIGHT WISH TO PROPOSE.

2. COMMENT. RUANET WELL-KNOWN TO MISSION OFFICERS AS INTELLIGENT, CAPABLE INDIVIDUAL. UNTIL ABOUT ONE YEAR AGO, HE SPENT FULL TIME ON UNCTAD ISSUES. IN THIS LATTER CONTEXT HE WAS COMPETENT BUT NECESSARILY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH GIVEN NUMEROUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LDCS, WITH BRAZIL (AND FREQUENTLY ROUANET) A LEADING

SPOKESMAN FOR LDC VIEWS. HE HAS BEGUN PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN GATT AS PRINCIPAL SUBORDINATE TO MINISTER-COUNSELOR SOUTO MAIOR AND WE HAVE FOUND HIM MORE EASY TO DEAL WITH THAN IN UNCTAD. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, CONSIDER HIM A GATT EXPERT AND IF CHOICE REALLY HAS TO BE MADE BETWEEN CHADHA AND ROUANET (WHICH WE QUESTION, SEE BELOW), MISSION WOULD RECOMMEND CHADHA.

3. IF WASH RELUCTANT ACCEPT CHADHA OR ROUANET, WE COULD THROW BALL BACK IN EC COURT BY PUTTING FORWARD FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES:

(A) TOMIC, MINISTER OF YUGO MISSION. HE WAS MEMBER OF PANEL ON DOLLAR AREA QUOTAS LAST YEAR AND HAS CHAIRED GATT COMMITTEES (INCLUDING COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT) AND SEVERAL WORKING PARTIES. HIGHLY REGARDED BY MISSION AND, WE BELIEVE, BY OTHERS AS WELL. DRAWBACK: TOO BUSY.

(B) TEESE, MINISTER OF AUSTRALIAN MISSION. HAS ACQUIRED GOOD GRASP OF GATT MATTERS IN PAST 18 MONTHS OR SO. WELL DISPOSED TOWARD US WHICH MAY MAKE HIM UNACCEPTABLE TO EC.

(C) FALCONER, COUNSELOR NEW ZEALAND MISSION. ALTHOUGH IN GENEVA LESS THAN A YEAR, PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN WELLINGTON AND NZ EMB WASHINGTON HAVE MADE HIM FAMILIAR WITH MOST GATT ISSUES ALTHOUGH HE IS MORE EXPERT IN AGRICULTURAL MATTERS. DRAWBACK: SMALL MISSION AND TOO BUSY, ALSO TOO WELL DISPOSED TOWARD US TO BE ACCEPTED EASILY BY EC. DALE

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